PRESS COVERAGE

This Land Is Your Land

February 1 — March 22, 2008

2. Chicago Life, Winter 2008
SPOTLIGHT

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Roberto Bellini, Peter Granser, Caroline Hake, Christian Jankowski, Simon Roberts, Greg Stimac, & Bryan Zonisnik

Thru Mar 22, 2008

Museum of Contemporary Photography
Columbia College Chicago
600 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605
312-663-5554
www.mocp.org

In February 2008, the MoCP opened a group exhibition of work by seven artists – two of whom are American, and five of whom are not – offering diverse perceptions of the United States. Their artwork touches upon some of the most current events, personal observations, and often humor to comment on the political, religious, and cultural climate of this country. In their work they demonstrate that our nation’s character is not tribal, but rather it is a constantly shifting confluence of traditions, stereotypes, and opinions, as understood from both within the country and from the outside.

MoCP curator Karen Irvine titled the show after Woody Guthrie’s 1940 song, written in response to what he felt was the overzealous glorification of the country in the lyrics of Irving Berlin’s song “God Bless America,” widely released in 1938. Guthrie was reacting to what he believed was a disconnect between the exalted adoration of the country in Berlin’s song and the reality of social problems such as the extremely unbalanced distribution of wealth that existed at the end of the Great Depression. Sixty-seven years later, “This Land is Your Land” has become one of the most popular patriotic songs of all time. But what seems to be patriotic, even positive, on the surface is not always what it seems, and the works in this exhibition reflect the polarizing issues our nation faces today: the complicated and messy War on Terror, as well as battles over immigration, security, abortion, and economics. However, Irvine says that “perhaps these fissures are indicators of patriotism in its higher form – the questioning of one’s country in a desire to make it better.”

For more information about this exhibition and the artists’ work, please visit www.mocp.org/exhibitions
events

Museums


The Arts Club of Chicago, 201 E. Ontario, 312-787-3997, presents work by Mario Merz through April 11.


Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, 847-835-5440, presents Woody Plant Symposium Feb. 22.


Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., 312-642-4600, presents Big Picture: A New View of Painting in Chicago through Aug. 3. Chicago@40: The Band and Its City runs through Mar. 30.

DePaul University Art Museum, 2350 N. Kenmore, 773-325-7506, presents Santaros: A Living Tradition in American Art from the Southwest through April 7.

Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Dr., 312-922-9410, hosts George Washington Carver through July 6. Born into slavery, Carver was a scientist, educator and humanitarian.


Kohl Children's Museum of Great Chicago, 2120 Patterson Blvd., Glenview, 847-832-6600, presents Adventures with Clifford the Big Red Dog through May 12.

 Loyola University Museum of Art, 820 N. Michigan Ave., 312-915-6394, presents Andy Warhol's Silver Clouds Feb. 17 through April 27.

Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circles, Evanston, 847-491-4000, hosts Imaging by Numbers: A Historical View of the Computer Print through April 6.


Museum of Contemporary Photography, 600 S. Michigan Ave., 312-663-5554, features This Land Is Your Land, a group exhibition of American Social Realists: From the 1930s to the 1950s, including works by Charles Demuth, Charles Harker, John Steuart Curry, and Thomas Hart Benton.


Lyric Opera of Chicago, 20 N. Wacker Dr., 312-337-2244, presents Falstaff through Feb. 23.
Don’t miss

1. "Artist Talk: Rirkrit Tiravanija" (See Events) The man behind the see-through DJ booth at “Sympathy for the Devil” discusses his popular "relational" projects at the Chicago Cultural Center on Wed 30.

2. "ARTWORkS" (See Gallery 2 and Project Space, Museums & Institutions) Did you know that the Art Institute and SAIC’s staff and faculty show off their own work.

"Holly Roberts No Blue Sky." Roberts, who has been creating painted photographs for more than 30 years, presents a new series about human’s impact on the natural world. Through Mar 1.

Russell Bowman Art Advisory
311 W Superior St, suite 115, at Orleans St (312-251-5500, bowmanart.com). Tues–Sat 10am–6:30pm.

"Kiki Smith." In her first Chicago gallery show, Smith diverges from her usual body-oriented work with ethereal acrylic drawings and prints completed during the last four years. Through Mar 15.

Galleries

Michigan Ave

Chicago City Arts Gallery
419 S Michigan Ave, suite 601, between Van Buren St and Congress Pkwy (312-327-6041, chicagoarts.org). Tues–Sat 10am–5pm.

Pilsen

Extension Gallery
1865 S Halsted St between 18th and 19th Sts (773-724-0582, extremitygallery.com). Tues–Fri 11am–7pm, Sat 11am–5pm.

Vespul Gallery
1907 S Halsted St, first floor, at 19th St (312-963-2856, vespul.org). Tues–Sat 11am–7pm.

River North

Et. Brown, Purple (trash hex) to Chicago, Bus: 28 Halsted, 26 Division (24hrs).

Carrie Secciri Gallery
855 W Madison St at Peoria St (312-927-8899, seccirigallery.com). Tues–Fri 11am–6pm, Sat 11am–5pm.

Kasia Kay Art Projects Gallery
1044 W Fulton St at Aberdeen St (312-492-8289, kasiakayartprojects.com). Wed–Fri 11am–6pm, Sat 11am–3pm.

Gardenfresh
119 N Peoria St between Washington St and Randolph Blvd (773-337-9899, gardenfresh.org). Tues–Sat 11am–6pm.

Adaptation